

Del. bridge builders spanning family ties

By **Ken Grant**
Staff writer

DOVER — Donald Poore Jr. knows something about bridging generations.

Mr. Poore, a Smyrna resident, is a construction technician for the state Department of Transportation.

Recently, he started working on a Del. 1 bridge to cross Sandom Branch, just north of the Smyrna rest area.

That's when he found out he would not be the first in his family to build a bridge there.

"My mother told me when we started that job that my grandfather helped build the original bridge over the creek in 1917," Mr. Poore said.

He said his grandfather, William T. Nowland, came to Delaware from Pennsylvania to look for work.

He found it, building the 30-foot long limestone and granite structure that helped people traveling the original King's Road

through the Delmarva peninsula.

In the 1920s, the du Pont Highway was built, replacing King's Road as the road of choice for travelers.

Mr. Poore said he still has a piece of the old bridge.

And yes, there's certainly some differences between the bridge his grandfather built in 1917 and the one being built now.

The new bridge will be a 500-foot long twin bridge, made of steel and concrete, crossing not only the creek, but also U.S. 13 and some nearby wetlands.

Mr. Poore said he gets a special feeling, knowing that his grandfather worked in the same place he's now working.

"I think it's kind of neat," he said.

"My grandfather had been out there working in that same exact spot."

Ken Grant can be reached at 741-8226 or kgrant@newszap.com.